

THE SEASON'S FANCY BLOUSE.

IT IS Dainty in Material and Pretty in Decoration.

Lines of Past Seasons Followed in General—Lace Dominant Here—Silk and Satin Blouses Much Embroidered—The Lingerie Effects—Sleeves Long and Short.

This season's fancy blouse for afternoon and evening is a thing of exquisite beauty, and comes in the greatest variety in material, cut and color.

The dainty materials used in the construction of the blouses are delightful in texture. They are principally crepe de chine, Liberty satin, silk voile, silk mull, mousseline, net, lace, lingerie embroidery and all the sheer lingerie fabrics.

In general, the fancy blouse follows the lines seen in blouses of the past season. The backs fit with easy snugness; the fronts fit over the bust and then blouse into delicate fullness, which is exaggerated by narrow belts or modified by the new high girdles.

The sleeves fit closely over the top of the arm and flare down gradually to a voluminous puff over a narrow cuff. Elbow sleeves are used, but they have not the place in popular favor the long sleeve have. Lace plays its dominant part in blouse-

work of lace insertion and long enough to reach the wrist.

Among the novelties in lace trimming are the round Mexican lace ornaments and the beautiful ornaments in point marquise, a Paris novelty, which combines white and deep cream in its designs. These appliqué ornaments and also those of embroidered velvet, linen, and silk are profusely used in trimming blouses. A light blue Liberty satin blouse shows a



design of disks of black velvet, which are embroidered into Oriental richness of coloring.

Novelties in silk lace and passementerie are used in yoke making. A white Liberty satin blouse has a deeply pointed silk lace yoke, which is dotted with appliqué artificial forget-me-nots.

Among the silk blouses untripped with lace, the most beautiful are those of Liberty satin, which show ornamentation only in groups of countless tiny, lengthwise tuks

has shoulder plastrons of écoré passementerie in grape design.

Fine white or cream net makes the tucked yokes of many blouses. It appeals to economy, for with a few appliqué lace flowers it gives the coveted lace effect for comparatively little outlay. Such a yoke in écoré is found in a lavender silk mull model. Entire waists are made of net, tucked profusely and appliqué with lace flowers.

Blouses of chiffon and mousseline de sole will probably always obtain favor while blouses are in fashion; they are so generally becoming and uncompromisingly feminine and dressy.

Lingerie blouses are legion, and the most exquisite fancies for blouse making enter into their composition. Some of the newest lingerie blouses are made of alternating stripes of white muslin and imitation Cluny lace. The striking feature of some of these is the very broad insertion used.

In one model three rows of insertion practically cover the front of the blouse, leaving the connecting bands of muslin only an inch and a half wide. Other white muslin blouses follow the idea already described for liberty satin blouses and are trimmed with an elaborate lace inset design made further intricate with the heaviest kind of French knots in white silk.

Fagoting, hand-embroidered designs, tucks, shirring, lace, Mexican drawn work and muslin embroideries, all vie in giving charming finishes to lingerie blouses. Batiste and cotton mull, plain or embroidered, are found in beautiful models. The hand embroidery on these blouses is of the finest. Therefore the embroidered ones command large prices. Entire blouses of all-over muslin embroidery and of fine lingerie lace are striking.

One of the newest trimmings for sheer white muslin blouses is flowered dimity. It is dimity with flowered stripes an inch or so wide that is used for this pretty adornment.

The flowered stripes are cut out so as to leave sufficient material on each side of the stripe to turn under the edges. Along



which form yokes or run in long lines from the shoulders to the belt. The sleeves are tucked in the same unstuffed manner, and so are the collars and cuffs. The effect is very telling and pretty, for the tucks in this luminous material catch light and shadow charmingly.

Yokes and blouse designs for fronts of blouses and sleeves in fagoting are still popular. These are found in many of the Liberty satin blouses, though lace trimming predominates and are used as extensively as ever in the crepe blouses, which have lost none of their prestige.

Batiste embroideries make an effective trimming for silk blouses, especially the embroideries with the design outlined in black. They make particularly pretty



yokes and cuffs for China silk and silk mull blouses.

China silk, combining as it does the daintiest silk sheen with lingerie lightness of weight and possibilities for cleansing, is a decided favorite for blouses. One of the models greatly liked has a shirred yoke and front panel.

The sleeves are shirred into close-fitting caps over the top of the arm, and then droop into extreme fullness over a narrow



shirred cuff. This model is devoid of lace trimming, but practically all the other models save a few lavishly tucked ones are beautified by Valenciennes lace insertions and inset medallions.

The sleeves of these blouses come in long and elbow lengths and are bedecked with inset lace and French knots. About the edge of the elbow sleeves hang single ruffles, heavily weighted with circular

making, as in every other phase of woman's costume this spring. Entire lace blouses made of imitation antique lace of bold, loose weave tempt women on all sides. They have the advantage of being durable and easily cleaned, and with a set of silk under-slips of different colors one of these blouses can be made to give a variety of pretty effects.

In buying a lace blouse or sheer blouse of any kind it should be remembered that the battle is only half won when the purchase is made. All the beauty of a sheer blouse is sacrificed if it is not worn over a prettily fitted and finished slip, which should be made of soft silk or of the finest lingerie material.

Quite as beautiful, if not as striking as the blouses made of antique lace are those made of finer, flimsy laces. These are es-



pecially pretty in yellow or écoré when worn over a white silk under-slip.

One blouse is made of rows of lace flounces about five inches deep. Three flounces make the elbow sleeves, and five the body of blouse. The flounces are carefully managed to that while the effect of the blouse is decidedly full and fluffy, grace of figure line is maintained.

Coarse antique laces, especially the Russian varieties, enter largely into the making of silk blouses in bands of insertion and inset designs of intricate elaboration. Many of the new silk blouses have as much lace as silk in their make-up.

Entire yokes of lace are popular and from many of these broad stripes of lace insertion run to the belt. A model made of alter-



bating stripes of white Liberty satin and imitation Cluny is a favorite.

Some of the newest Liberty satin blouses show a most elaborate ornamentation in heavy lace and enormous French knots. The fronts are inset with lace medallions arranged to carry out the idea of a deeply pointed yoke. French knots and large wheels of crossed silk twist beautify the spaces between the medallions.

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THE COST OF ENTERTAINING.

VIEWS OF A BUSINESS WOMAN OF SOCIAL EXPERIENCE.

Mistakes of City People About Entertaining—Hospitality as a Means of Paying Debts—Great Expense Not Essential to Entertaining at Home.

Is it possible to entertain on \$3,500 a year? Is the question that has been agitating some SUN readers of late. Some of them have declared that it is impossible to do so, while the others say they have solved the difficulty by living in Brooklyn and entertaining friends at clubs here in town.

The question was propounded to a woman of social experience who, as visiting housekeeper, plans and manages households and incomes for families in which the mistress of the home is unable to look after the details of housekeeping herself.

"Of course it is possible," she said, "for it is quite possible for even the poorest little art student to share her afternoon tea and toast with a few friends, and many of these girls are capital hostesses. Entertaining really means only the offering of one's hospitality, however great or small it may be, to one's acquaintances and friends, and the nearer one keeps to this idea the more successful will be the entertainment offered under one's roof."

Domestic conditions which exist in New York there is no reason why families, especially families in which there are children, should be bereft of the heart of pleasure of sisterly entertainment. They should be cultivated and in every home there should be some thought as to the ways and means by which entertainment may be offered during a season, or in some cases during the summer term, when it is more convenient for people to entertain out of town.

As to the small cost at which such functions may be successfully carried out, need only cite the studio teas that have been so successful in town for several seasons. These are most enjoyable, so much so that they are never sparsely attended, and this though the refreshments offered are the simplest, the guests themselves usually furnishing the entertainment and merriment.

"Of course all sets of society are not provided with such clever people as guests in this special group, who are rarely rich, but they are never sparsely attended, and this though the refreshments offered are the simplest, the guests themselves usually furnishing the entertainment and merriment."

Those who do this kind of entertaining are not to be despised. In all cities the principal idea seems to be that one should pay off comrades rather than that one should offer hospitality.

There are houses which are opened once or twice during a season for magnificently ostentatious balls and dinners, and for the rest of the year are closed like tombs, and this is an excellent illustration of the ideas of entertaining that prevail in New York.

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generous host tries of the game, siffs his list of acquaintances and wonders what he ever saw in the cultivation of social joys.

So the art of entertaining is gradually being crushed out of existence among people with limited incomes. They rapidly discover that the entertainment-hungry ones are never given to entertaining themselves and so they adopt the unpleasant plan of doing as much or as little as they have to do to keep up their end. At once genuine hospitality is killed.

Domestic conditions which exist in New York there is no reason why families, especially families in which there are children, should be bereft of the heart of pleasure of sisterly entertainment. They should be cultivated and in every home there should be some thought as to the ways and means by which entertainment may be offered during a season, or in some cases during the summer term, when it is more convenient for people to entertain out of town.

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"We hear a good deal about the busy men of New York," said one of them, "but I have a friend in Wall Street who has broken the record."

"I was in his apartment a few nights ago after the theatre, and he was chatting with me about the deals of the day, and as he chatted he was running over a bundle of memoranda. All at once he stopped as if he had been shot."

"Great Scott!" he exclaimed, "I'm to be married to-morrow to a woman in Chicago, and I had forgotten the date completely. Say, old man, come with me and help me to pack up. Of course, I can't make it now to save my life, even if I hired a special engine and car, for the wedding is set for to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock!"

"While he was packing his things into his trunk he sent out a messenger to his secretary to hurry him to the office. My friend left it on the first train out and after his arrival in Chicago he wired back: "It's all right. She has the measles."

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The King's Children Have Married Into Most of the Reigning Dynasties.

King Christian IX. of Denmark celebrated his 55th birthday on Wednesday.

His father was the Duke of Schleswig-Holstein-Sonderburg-Glücksburg, and that was his title up to 1852, when he was accepted by the great Powers at the London conference as the heir apparent to the Danish throne. On the death of Frederick VII. in 1893 he became King, so that he will be able to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of his accession to the throne next November. Preparations for a solemn observance of that event are already in progress in Denmark.

One of the principal reasons for the great interest taken in King Christian all over Europe is his relationship through the marriages of his children to the principal reigning dynasties. While there are two European sovereigns, the Pope and Duke Adolph of Luxembourg, who are his seniors and not less than seven, among them being his own son, King George I. of Greece, who have reigned longer, there is no monarch that can boast of a larger progeny. At the present time King Christian's family consists of six children, thirty-two grandchildren and twenty-seven great-grandchildren.

The King's eldest son, Crown Prince Frederick, is married to Princess Alexandra of Sweden, the oldest daughter of the late King Charles XV. One of his daughters is the Dowager Empress of Russia, the mother of the Duke of Connaught. Another daughter is Queen Alexandra of England. His second son, the King of Greece, is married to a cousin of the Czar, and his third daughter, Princess Thyra, is the Duchess of Cumberland. His youngest son's wife is Princess Marie of Bourbon-Orleans, a daughter of the Duke of Chartres, who served as an aide-de-camp to Gen. McClellan in the grand campaign. Of King Christian's grandchildren one has married Princess Marie of Romania, youngest daughter of King Edward VII. while another one, the Crown Prince of Greece, has married a sister of Kaiser Wilhelm II. The King's wife, Queen Louise, died in 1895.